

REMARKS

The acknowledgment of the claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and the indication that the certified copy of the priority document has been received is noted with appreciation.

The objections to the drawings by the Examiner is noted, and corrected drawing sheets are being submitted herewith. Specifically, Figures 1 and 2 have been corrected to correctly show the cross hatching of the materials of sheet 10 as set forth in MPEP 608.02, IX. In addition, Figure 3 has been amended to show a block within the sheet depression and protrusion-forming unit 20 labeled “IMPACT PRINTER HEAD OR RUBBER ROLLER”, the former being described, for example, in Example 1 on pages 24 to 27, and the latter being described, for example, in Example 2 on pages 27 and 28. Thus, no new matter is introduced by the amendment to Figure 3. Moreover, the illustration in Figure 3 now clearly complies with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) in that (1) the recitation of “by an actuator” in claims 10 and 19 has been deleted and (2) the recitation of “a magnetic moving type dot impact printer” in claims 11 and 20 has been changed to –an impact printer–. In view of the corrected and amended drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s objections to the drawings have been overcome and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

The Abstract has been amended as required by the Examiner. The term “comprising” has been replaced by –incorporating–. In addition, a minor amendment has been made to the paragraph bridging pages 27 and 28. Also, claim 22 has been amended to correct typographical error noted by the Examiner.

In addition to the objection to claim 22, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 9. These claims have also been amended. Specifically, the word “which” has been deleted from claim 2, and the definite article “the” preceding “image” in claim 9 has been changed to an indefinite article.

As amended, it is believed that the objections to the specification and claims have been overcome and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 22 appear in the application. The indication that claims 7, 9 to 11, 13, and 17 to 22 are directed to allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 9 to 11, 14, 16, 18 to 20 and 22 have been amended. The limitations of claim 13 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 14, and claim 13 has been canceled. Therefore, with the indication that claim 13 is drawn to allowable subject matter, the amendments to claims 1 and 14 *prima facie* place all the claims now remaining in the application in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German patent DE 1,629,805 to Gover et al. This rejection is now moot for the reasons given above.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 14 to 16 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3 to 6 and 17 to 12 of copending application Serial No. 10/706,981. It is noted that this rejection is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the alleged conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. At such time as the alleged conflicting claims are allowed and the obviousness-type double patenting rejection made final, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in order to overcome the rejection.

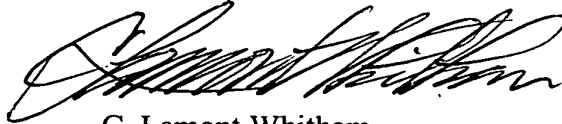
The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed; however, it is believed that the cited prior art is not pertinent to the invention as specifically recited in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 to 22 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Lamont Whitham', is written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached is a paper entitled "PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTIONS" with attached copies of drawing Figures 1, 2 and 3 marked in red and substitute sheets of formal drawing.



Title of Invention: Surface Treatment Apparatus
And Image-Forming Apparatus
Inventor's Name: A. Uejima et al.
Dkt #/Appln. No. 10/712,272

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

FIG. 1

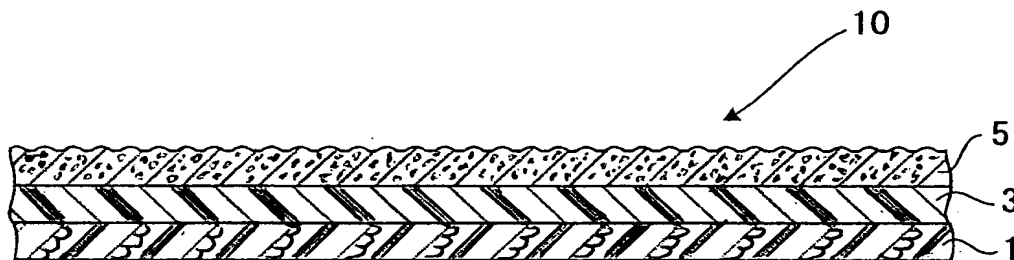
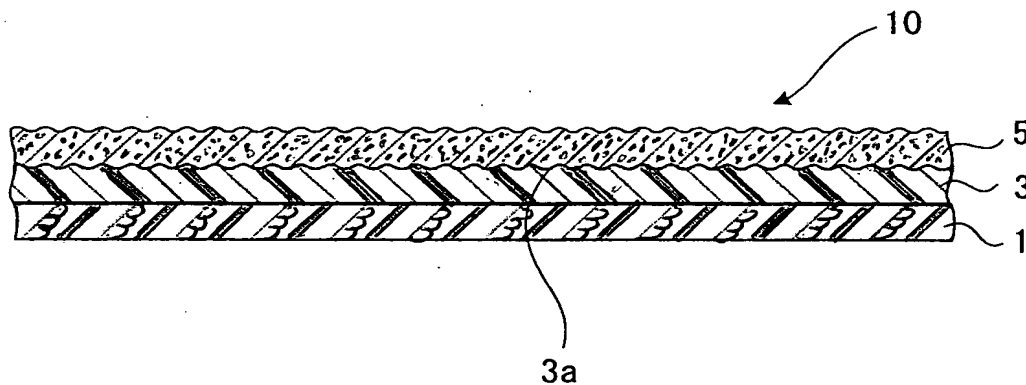


FIG. 2





Title of Invention: Surface Treatment Apparatus
And Image-Forming Apparatus
Inventor's Name: A. Uejima et al.
Appl. No. 10/712,272
**ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS**

FIG. 3

